

exactly how much was stolen. With our larceny statutes, with a number of other statutes, for example, we gradate our penalties depending on how much was stolen. In the larceny statutes we have...or theft statutes, we have four different delineations. Some are misdemeanors. The more serious ones are felonies. But in the bid rigging area there was no way that the committee could figure out how to gradate penalties. The only solution was to make a penalty appropriate for the large amounts of money that was stolen in fact in this particular instance and leave it to the good judgment of the judge and the prosecutor not to levy a penalty that is excessive in a case where the amount actually stolen was probably a small amount. So it is not the typical case of simply raising a penalty. It is an instance where the penalty has to be high in order to give an appropriate response to some very, very serious crimes. I might point out for you that the Attorney General of this state in all of his dealings with the bid riggers for all the millions of dollars that they stole, not one single one got one day in jail from the State of Nebraska, and I think that is a pretty pathetic record. And that is in part, part of the explanation of why we gave wholehearted approval to Senator Warner's bill to increase the penalty. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on LB 32? Do you care to close, Senator Warner? The motion is to advance LB 32. All those in favor of advancing the bill vote aye, opposed vote no. The motion is to advance LB 32 from General File to Enrollment and Review for review. Please record your vote. Have you all voted on the advancement of LB 32? The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries and the bill is advanced. LB 619.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 619 was a bill introduced by Senators DeCamp and Carsten. (Read title.) The bill was read on February 28. It was referred to the Revenue Committee. Mr. President, the bill was advanced to General File. There are Revenue Committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten, do you wish to take up the Revenue Committee amendments to LB 619?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the committee amendments only added the emergency clause.